

LABRUS TINCA?

VAR?



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Os labiis crassis, replicatis; maxillis externis tectis.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LABRUS rostro sursum reflexo, cauda in extremo circulari?

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 477.

Arted. gen. 33. *syn.* 56.

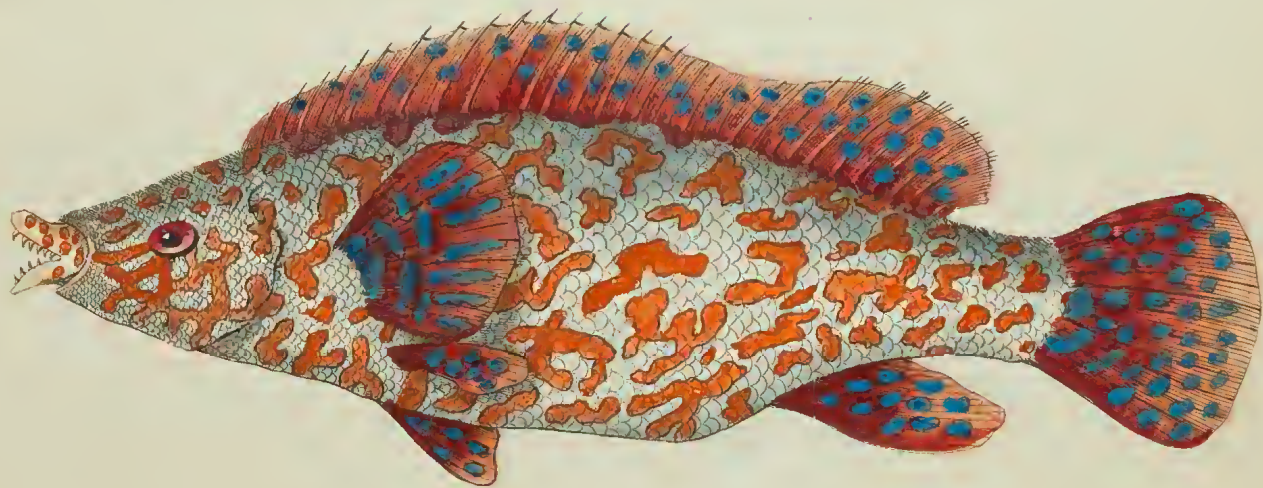
Turdorum septimum genus?

Rondel. pisc. p. 177.

Spari et *Labri* genera a Linnæo non satis accurate a se invicem videntur sejungi. Ne quid enim dicamus de nimia horum generum affinitate, colorum quibus multæ species ornantur magna est diversitas. Ipsos quoque characteres confudisse et obscurasse videtur Linnæus, qui pinnas *Spari* pectorales vult esse rotundatas, pinnas autem *Labri* pectorales acuminatas. Quod cum prorsus contrarium sit in plerisque speciebus, non possumus non suspicari Linnæum, lapsu calami, verborum ordinum invertisse; et hoc modo in *Systema Naturæ* vitium irrepsisse.

Characteres quos instituit Blochius, utpote simplici-
ciores, in errorem minus ducturos opinamur.

Labri Tincæ, in maribus Europæis sæpius con-
specti, colores multum variant. Hujus depinximus,
magnitudine quasi dimidiata, varietatem? non quo-
ridianam, sed fere omnium splendidissimam; quam
non continet eximium Blochii opus; quæque fatis
fideliter depicta haud possit reperiri in alio aliquo
opere ichthyologico.



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THE
VARIEGATED WRASSE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Mouth retractile : lips thick and revolute.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Dusky-red *Labrus*, whitish beneath, with blue variegations and rounded tail.

Var. Whitish *Labrus*, variegated with red, orange, and blue, the variegations on the body flexuous, on the fins spotted.

Ancient WRASSE?

Pennant Brit. Zool. p. 214. pl. 47. No. 115.

The species in the two genera of *Sparus* and *Labrus* are, according to Linnæus, not so easily distinguished as might be wished; since exclusive of the strong affinity between the genera, many of the species vary much in color. It must likewise be added that even the Linnæan characters of these genera seem to be involved in great obscurity; a part of the generic character of *Sparus* consisting in the rounded shape of the pectoral fins, (*pinne pectorales rotundatæ*) while those of the genus *Labrus* are expressly said to be *acuminatæ*. Now the very reverse of this being really the case in most of the species, I am therefore inclined

inclined to suppose that Linnæus, thro' a lapsus calami, committed this mistake in writing the generic characters, and that it has been erroneously thus printed in the *Systema Naturæ*. Dr. Bloch's characters are more simple, and of course, less liable to mislead.

The *Labrus Tinca*, frequently found in the European seas, varies much in color: the specimen represented on the present plate, of about half the natural size, exhibits one of the richest varieties, and is far superior to those which are generally seen. It does not occur in the splendid publication of Dr. Bloch, nor does it indeed seem to have been anywhere represented with a sufficient degree of exactness.